

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11, and 13-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11, 13-16, and 18-32 stand rejected. Assignee sincerely thanks the examiner for indicating that claim 33 is allowable and that claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims. Claims 1, 20, and 33 are independent claims. Assignee traverses the rejections as to claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11, 13-16, and 18-32.

The assignee respectfully disagrees with the "Response to Amendment" set forth in this office action concerning the previously-filed amendment in this case. On page 5, the office action states:

The examiner is unable to find the alleged limitation in the present claims requiring that a security setting is retrieved based upon a determined recipient. On the contrary, the present claims only specify that a message setting is retrieved based upon determined recipient wherein the message setting comprises a plurality of settings including indication for encryption or digital signing. (Emphasis original.)

The assignee respectfully disagrees that independent claims 1 and 20 as previously amended failed to recite that the messaging setting retrieved based upon a determined recipient comprised a security setting. In order to expedite the prosecution of the instant application, though, the assignee has amended independent claims 1 and 20 herein to make even more explicit that the messaging setting retrieved based upon the determined recipient is a security setting by providing an indication for encryption or an indication for digital signing.

Further, page 5 of the office action also states that U.S. Patent No. 7,209,951, issued to Goldberg (Goldberg), teaches "that message settings also comprises security settings," citing column 4, lines 2-22 of Goldberg. The cited passage reads:

The insertion string for a given detected customization may be customizable for and by each user and the insertion point (subject line or message text) may be programmable as well. The prompt may or may not

display the string or the prompt may merely indicate that a string should be inserted by the user.

TABLE 1

| Customization Feature | Exemplary Action |
|-----------------------|--|
| Message Priority | Prompt to insert priority (e.g., “Urgent”) in subject line |
| Encryption | Prompt to insert “Encrypted” at bottom of message |
| cc: and bcc: | Prompt to generate cc: list at bottom of message text (and optionally bcc: list) |
| Electronic Signature | Prompt to add “signed electronically” to bottom of message text |
| Attachment | Prompt to add “Attachment(s)” at the bottom of message text |
| Message type | Prompt to add message type (e.g., “Private”) in subject line |

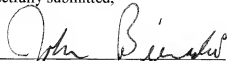
The assignee respectfully disagrees that the cited passage from Goldberg teaches message settings that comprise security settings, as set forth on page 5 of the office action. As the Goldberg reference states plainly, the table lists the prompts given to a user of the Goldberg system regarding the *insertion strings* that a user may wish to add to the *text* of a message. Teaching the insertion of a string into the text of a message in no way teaches the use of message settings that comprise security settings. Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above, the cited reference does not teach the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 20. Therefore, the claims are allowable and should proceed to issuance.

Because the independent claims are allowable, their respective dependent claims also are allowable and should proceed to issuance. In addition, it is noted that the assignee has not, at this time, presented arguments with respect to some of the dependent claims in the instant application. The assignee nevertheless reserves the right to argue the patentability of all of the dependent claims in the instant application at a later date, should that become necessary.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the assignee respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable. Therefore, the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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